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Fifty-fifth session
Second Committee
Agenda item 94 (e)
Sustainable development and international economic cooperation: implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

Draft resolution submitted by the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Alexandru Niculescu (Romania), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.12

Scope to be covered by the special session of the General Assembly on the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

The General Assembly,

Recalling paragraph 218 of the Habitat Agenda,[1] resolution 51/177 of 16 December 1996 on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and resolution 53/180 of 15 December 1998, in which it decided that its special session for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the Conference would be held in June 2001 and that the Commission on Human Settlements should serve as the preparatory committee for the special session,

Taking into account its resolutions 54/208 of 22 December 1999 on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and 54/209 of 22 December 1999 on the follow-up to the Conference,

Bearing in mind Commission on Human Settlements resolutions 17/1 of 14 May 1999 on the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and 17/14 of 14 May 1999 on the preparations for the special session of

[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

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the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the outcome of the Conference,[2]

Taking note of the report of the Commission on Human Settlements acting as the preparatory committee for the special session on its first substantive session,[3]

Also taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation by the United Nations system of the Habitat Agenda,[4]

I. Outcome of the special session of the General Assembly on the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda

1. *Confirms* that the special session should result in:

(a) Reconfirmation of the goals and commitments of the Habitat Agenda and review of the status of implementation, including the identification of progress, gaps, obstacles and challenges;

(b) The setting of global priorities for future action;

2. *Emphasizes* the role of the Commission on Human Settlements, as a standing body of the Economic and Social Council, as a central monitoring and coordinating body within the United Nations system for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

3. *Also emphasizes* the existing role of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in supporting the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

4. *Further emphasizes* while recognizing that the implementation of the Habitat Agenda is the sovereign right and responsibility of each State, that international cooperation as stipulated in the Habitat Agenda remains an important component in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

II. Arrangements regarding participation of Habitat Agenda partners and observers in the special session

1. *Decides* that representatives of local authorities, and other Habitat Agenda[4] partners may make statements in the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole and in the thematic committee of the special session on the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II);

2. *Decides also* that, given the availability of time, a limited number of representatives of local authorities, non-governmental organizations and other Habitat Agenda partners may also make statements in the debate in the plenary of the special session; the President of the General Assembly is requested to present the list of selected Habitat Agenda partners to the Member States in a timely manner for approval; the President of the General Assembly is also requested to ensure that the selection of speakers is made on an equal and transparent basis, taking into account the geographical representation and diversity of Habitat Agenda partners;

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[2] See Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/54/8), annex I, sect. A.

[3] A/55/121.

[4] A/55/83-E/2000/62.

3. *Decides further* that observers may make statements in the debate of the plenary of the special session in accordance with the established rules and procedures of the General Assembly;

4. *Decides* that arrangements concerning the accreditation and participation of Habitat Agenda partners in the special session shall in no way create a precedent for other special sessions of the General Assembly;

III. Arrangements regarding accreditation of Habitat Agenda partners to the special session

1. *Decides* that the accreditation to the special session shall be open to:

(a) Those Habitat Agenda partners that were accredited to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II);

(b) Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, with the exception of those non-governmental organizations whose application for consultative status with the Council has been rejected or whose consultative status with the Council has been withdrawn or suspended;

2. *Decides also* that accreditation of other interested and relevant Habitat Agenda partners which were not accredited to the Habitat II Conference should be examined by the preparatory committee, provided that they submit their application for accreditation to the committee composed of the bureau of the preparatory committee and the Secretariat by 9 February 2001; the application should contain the following information:

(a) The purpose of the organization;

(b) Information identifying the programmes and activities of the organization in areas relevant to the subject of the special session and indicating in which country or countries they are carried out;

(c) Confirmation of the activities of the organization at the national, regional or international levels;

(d) Copies of annual or other reports of the organization, with financial statements and a list of financial sources and contributions, including governmental contributions;

(e) A list of the members of the governing body of the organization and their countries of nationality;

(f) A description of the membership of the organization, indicating the total number of members, the names or organizations that are members and their geographical distribution;

(g) A copy of the constitution and/or by-laws of the organization;

The bureau of the preparatory committee should submit by 19 February 2001 to the preparatory committee at its second session a list of partners that have submitted their applications; the list should contain information on each partner's competence and relevance to the subject of the special session; the preparatory committee at its second session will decide on a no-objection basis regarding the accreditation of these partners;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to disseminate widely all available information on accreditation procedures for the special session;

4. *Decides* that the arrangements set out above concerning accreditation to the special session will in no way create a precedent for other special sessions of the General Assembly;

IV. Action at the local, national and regional levels

1. *Calls upon* all States to strengthen broad-based, participatory, gender-balanced national habitat committees or similar consultative mechanisms to review and report on local and national plans of action and, through consultative mechanisms, to coordinate and support further the implementation of the Habitat Agenda at the local and national levels;

2. *Urges* States to focus their assessment and monitoring of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda at the local, national and regional levels on key commitments related to policies and methods of evaluation, and recommends that States identify best practices, including enabling policies, legislation and exemplary plans of action, in implementing the Habitat Agenda in a gender-sensitive way, that they promote research on low-cost building technology for affordable housing and that they support the transfer of all such knowledge to ensure sustainability;

3. *Confirms* that the special session should facilitate sharing views on local, national and regional experiences in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

V. Partnership and the role of civil society

1. *Encourages* Member States to integrate contributions made by different partner groups towards further implementation of the Habitat Agenda in their national reports and to consider the inclusion of partner groups in broad-based, gender-balanced national delegations;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements to report to the preparatory committee at its second session on the activities of the Advisory Committee of Local Authorities;

VI. Monitoring and assessment

1. *Encourages* Member States and Habitat Agenda partners to provide support for the preparation of the *Global Report on Human Settlements* and the *State of the World's Cities* report on a biennial basis in order to raise awareness of human settlements and to provide information on urban conditions and trends around the world;

2. *Recommends* that the Commission on Human Settlements pursue agreement by all Member States on a pool of common and easy-to-measure indicators applicable for national reporting and evaluation;

3. *Encourages* all relevant United Nations organizations and agencies and other development partners to support the efforts of national Governments to coordinate data collection and analysis, and to develop a monitoring system at the local level on sustainable human settlements, with appropriate strengthening at all levels;

4. *Encourages* all Governments and partners to submit to the Secretariat examples of enabling urban policies and legislation related to key items selected for country reporting, to enable the Secretariat to combine best practices, enabling policies legislation and action plans;

VII. International cooperation

1. *Requests* the preparatory committee, at its second session, to prepare a draft declaration on cities and other human settlements in the new millennium;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements to report to the special session on the implementation of the twin goals of the Habitat Agenda, "Adequate shelter for all" and "Sustainable human settlements development", as well as on the actions and achievements of the Global Campaign for Secure Tenure and the Global Campaign for Urban Governance;

3. *Calls upon* the international community to support developing countries in the preparatory process for the special session, the second session of the preparatory committee and the special session itself;

4. *Requests* the international community to support urban poverty eradication in developing countries as well as reconstruction programmes following conflicts and natural disasters in order to allow affected countries to implement the Habitat Agenda effectively.